

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

The widespread flooding at the beginning of June put to test the planning and response abilities of many state agencies, including the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH).

Flooding that devastated the southern portion of the state impacted the lives of everyone in its path. As the flood waters began to rise, so did the efforts to assist those affected. The BOAH staff was on hand at the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in Indianapolis, during the critical time of the flood, assisting with any agricultural questions that may have come up.

BOAH staff members have spent much time and energy preparing staff members to handle these types of situations. Now was the time to put what was learned into action from communications to Incident Command.

Since 1994, when animal issues were officially integrated in Indiana's statewide emergency response plan, BOAH has been working to increase awareness and readiness across the state. What began as the "SAVE" program has evolved into the current ASERT

### **Flood-Related Animal Health Issues**

- Remove large amounts of pooled water
- Provide fresh, clean drinking water
- Evaluate feed supplies for possible contamination; do not feed exposed feedstuffs
- Watch for clinical signs of flood-related illness that may include: vomiting, diarrhea, dermatitis, fever, respiratory stress and physical illness

structure that is better funded, more equipped and better trained.

Meanwhile, since 2000, when animal health emergencies were added to state plans, BOAH has stepped up readiness efforts across Indiana.

Now, more than a decade after that first Memorandum of Understanding was signed, it seems that Hoosiers are getting the message about preparedness.

Relatively speaking, BOAH fielded few animal-related calls. That was because most of the counties have been able to

address rescue, evacuation and sheltering issues adequately. The system is working!

Beyond live-animal issues, BOAH addressed food-related situations on several dairies in Indiana. Nine dairy farms were affected by flooding. As a result, 20,000 lbs of milk had to be dumped. Another 20,000 had to be shifted from fluid milk to cheese for quality reasons.

Since flood waters can bring different diseases, veterinarians and animal owners should watch for an increase in vector-borne illnesses and other clinical signs that warrant treatment. Anthrax is one of many problems that could occur, since the organism can remain dormant in the soil for decades until disturbed by moving water.

This flood has proved that Indiana's animal industry and veterinary community is well prepared for disaster, which is a great comfort to know.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

**Board Members:**  
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## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING THEIR** regular July 10 meeting, Board members discussed:

- Adopted the changes to the cervid health program.
- Adopted the changes to update the Pastureized Milk Ordinance (PMO).
- Heard the first reading of a rule to add grading and certification of meat and meat products. A public hearing will be held at their next regular meeting, Oct. 2.
- The board discussed Indiana's role, and options, in dead animal disposal. More information is being collected; including other state's positions.

## Companion Animal

**UPDATED RABIES** books were sent out through mail and e-mail. Starting in 2009, updates will only be available on the web. The whole book is currently available on the BOAH web site, [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov), under the Rabies section, to be downloaded or printed. The book can be printed as a whole, or in sections.

**INFORMATION IS** still being collected about public and private animal shelters in each county. This information is part of BOAH's disaster planning and are also a great resource for contacts with the public. Information can be dropped off or sent to Janet Berish, RVT, at [jberish@boah.in.gov](mailto:jberish@boah.in.gov) or 317-227-0322.

## Cervids

**BOAH IS** introducing cervid producers to the newly adopted CWD certification program. The new program has two classifications for producers: "Monitoring" and "Certification". The "Monitoring Program" is required for susceptible species, but is not intended for herds in commercial trade because it may not meet all interstate shipping requirements. The "Certification Program" has increased requirements to meet USDA's higher standards, and is for those herds moving interstate.

For more information, producers can contact Dr. Shelly Chavis at 260-450-2139 or e-mail at [schavis@boah.in.gov](mailto:schavis@boah.in.gov).

## Animal Neglect/Abuse

**A KENTUCKY** farmer is under fire after 31 horses were found dead on his farm on April, 7 2008. Ten more horses were found in poor condition, and the 14 horses still in good health were turned over to the Lewis County Humane Society.

This case is a reminder of the growing problem among equine owners who can no longer afford to care for their animals. If abuses is noticed, local authorities (i.e., sheriff or animal control) should be contacted to take further action.

## Premise ID

**TO DATE**, Indiana has 88.9 percent of premises registered. These numbers show Indiana is currently one of the national forerunners in registering premise ID. As a reminder to all, Indiana requires ID numbers for all cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and cervids that are bought, sold, or exhibited.

**AS OF** the end of June, current premise ID numbers are as follows: avian: 5079; bovine: 22,831; caprine: 5547; camelid: 453; equine: 6219; cervids: 590; fish: 15; ovine: 4667; and porcine: 10,088, for a total of 33,114.

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## Equine

**IN MAY**, three horses in southern Indiana were found to be positive for equine infectious anemia (EIA). According to Dr. Tim Bartlett, director of Equine for BOAH, all three positives were immediately euthanized and the rest of the herd; which tested negative, was put under quarantine.

**THE EUROPEAN UNION** will make mandatory microchipping of foals born on or after July 1, 2009, according to an agreement made by the member states. Older horses will not be required to have microchips. Microchipping has already been active in the Thoroughbred breeding industry since 1999, and has been widely welcomed into the equine industry.

**A CLARIFICATION** on the Illinois premise ID rule: The requirement is **ONLY** for horses going to the state and county fairs.

## Avian

**TYSON FOODS**, in Arkansas, recently had to destroy 15,000 chickens because of the identification of low-pathogenic bird flu. Breeder hens tested positive to the H7N2 strain in early June. Even though it was not confirmed the birds had the disease, depopulation occurred for precautionary measures.

**AS OF** April 1, USDA-APHIS and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife began a surveillance plan and will collect approximately 800 avian samples to test for H5N1 across the state. The collection will run until March of 2009. Several important changes have taken place to assist in early detection of the virus. USDA Wildlife Services employees and the BOAH interns will be assisting with the sample collection.

## Scrapie

**INDIANA CONTINUES** efforts to eradicate scrapie from Indiana flocks. The past year had approximately 9880 samples tested. During the first quarter of 2008, BOAH identified one new infection, five in-state traces from infected flocks, and 34 out-of-state traces to Indiana. The five traces in Indiana all came from the same flock.

**PRODUCERS PARTICIPATING** in the Voluntary Scrapie Certification Program are required to call their regulatory veterinarian within 30 days of all sheep/goat additions that could affect their status date.

## Cattle/Ruminants

**BOAH VETERINARIAN** James Hollis, brucellosis and tuberculosis (TB) programs director, recently did a short course on TB. The course re-certified attendees doing caudal fold tests.. Veterinarians interested in refresher training may contact Dr. Hollis at 317-417-0298 or [jhollis@boah.in.gov](mailto:jhollis@boah.in.gov).

**JOHNE'S REMINDER** to all veterinarians: USDA has not made funding available for producers this year in the certification program. Producers are encouraged to continue certification protocols to maintain status, but reimbursement for testing will not be provided.

**IN MID-JUNE**, the Wyoming State Veterinarian was notified of positive brucellosis tests on two cows. Although the test does not guarantee that the cattle are infected, the strength of the reaction suggests that they do have the disease.

**MINNESOTA SENATE** recently approved a \$3.5 million cattle buy-out program for the designated 56-herd zone infected with tuberculosis. The purpose of the buy-out is to contain the disease, which has already infected 11 herds in northwestern Minnesota. The buy-out is voluntary, so if producers do not accept they will be assessed to ensure no interaction occurs between the cattle and deer.

**CALIFORNIA HAS** announced two more TB positive herds. The cows, each from different herds, has cause California's TB status from "Accredited Free" to "Modified Accredited Advanced." Since the positive herds are located in a general vicinity California is working with USDA to evaluate dividing California so that part of the state could return to a "TB Free" status while the infected portion of the state continues eradication efforts.

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1**, 2009, dairy cattle imported into Arizona will be required to have identification. The purpose of the rule is to "identify the herd of birth", which allows for traceability of animals if diseases

are discovered.

## Meat & Poultry

**THIS YEAR** the Meat and Poultry division at BOAH will be celebrating its 40th anniversary since being organized. The BOAH booth at the Indiana State Fair will highlight advances in food safety over the years.

## ASERT

ASERT MEMBERS are invited to help raise awareness of disaster preparedness at the Indiana State Fair. On Saturday, August 16, BOAH will be hosting a booth for Public Safety Day at the fair. Indiana State Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring the day to increase readiness for all types of disasters. Veterinarians interested in working the booth can contact Denise Derrer at 317/227-0308, or Janelle Thompson at 317/227-0375 by July 31.

## Dairy

**THE DAIRY** staff, in partnership with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), is continuing to work with processors and legislators on the rBST labeling issue. ISDA is hosting meetings with industry members to determine future directions.

**NESTLE-ANDERSON** has begun production on two of five lines in the new facility located along I-69. The plant produces liquid NesQuik and CoffeeMate products. Once in full production the facility will be using around one million gallons of milk a day and will be able to output approximately a billion bottles a year.

**SEVERAL STAFF** additions have been taking place. Recently, three Food Scientist positions have been filled. Gillian Simmons, Amanda Plunkett and Brian Cogar have joined the staff and will be located in central northwestern, southeastern and east-central Indiana, respectively. Randy Dues joined the division as the plant section supervisor.

## Aquaculture

**THE ROUND GOBY**, a species of fish not known to carry this disease, tested positive to viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) in late May. The fish were found washed up on the shores of the southern basin of Lake Michigan. Since the lake was currently infected with VHSV, no action was required from APHIS, but this does add another species to the list of those that can carry the disease.